



**For immediate release  
May 30, 2008**

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## **DCR BEGINS RESTORATION OF WATERTOWN FOUNDERS MEMORIAL**

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) has begun work to restore and preserve the Memorial to the Founders of Watertown, also known as the Saltonstall monument, near Watertown Square.

The memorial, which depicts scenes from 1630, includes a large bronze statue of Sir Richard Saltonstall with a Charter from the king, and two bronze bas-reliefs. One bas-relief depicts Roger Clap and the Dorchester Men encountering the Native Americans who gathered there every summer to fish near the falls; the symbolic peace offering and exchange of a bass fish for a biscuit represented the potential for friendship between the two cultures. The other shows Reverend George Philips and the Watertown Men protesting taxation without representation.

The memorial, built in 1931, was designed by the late artist Henry Hudson Kitson.

During the preservation work, the statue, as well as the two bas-relief panels, will be cleaned, repaired, patinated to their original bronze color, and treated with protective coatings. The pink granite foundation also will be cleaned, repaired, and repointed.

The work, which began this week and is expected to be completed by the end of summer, is a partnership between DCR and the Friends of the Watertown Riverfront, the Watertown Community Foundation, and the Historical Society of Watertown as part of DCR's Partnerships Matching Funds Program. Of the \$48,500 cost of the project, \$17,500 was provided by the three community groups through a grant from the Lawrence and Lillian Solomon Fund. DCR provided the remaining \$35,000 and is overseeing the work.

"We are delighted to be able to help preserve this lovely monument to not only the founding of Watertown, but to the friendly relationship Sir Richard Saltonstall began with the local Native American tribes," said DCR Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr. "We thank the Friends groups and the Solomon Fund very much for their participation in this project."

The contract for the restoration work was awarded to Daedalus Inc. of Watertown.

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“Watertownians are duly proud of the important history this monument represents, and of its tremendous artistic value and the beautiful mile-long stretch of riverfront beside it,” said Beth Zwick, executive director of the Watertown Community Foundation.

Audrey Childs of the Historical Society of Watertown added, “It is imperative that we preserve the treasures of Watertown’s history for current and future generations. The Founder’s Monument represents the beginning of Watertown.”

In 1630, a fleet of 11 ships, led by Governor John Winthrop, left the coast of England for the new land. The Arbella was the flagship, carrying several colonists, including Saltonstall. Saltonstall carried the Charter with him from the king in England. The Charter led to a new form of government, which gave the colonists freedom from the king, and is depicted on the monument as a scroll in Saltonstall’s hand.

DCR’s Partnerships Matching Funds Program accepts applications from Friends groups and other park advocacy groups, civic and community organizations, institutions, businesses, and dedicated individuals with an interest in improving the Commonwealth’s natural, cultural, and recreational resources.

Under the program, DCR considers applications that will provide a match of non-state funds for capital projects in state parks. DCR assigns a project manager to each approved project who will oversee implementation of the project in close consultation with the partners making the contributions. In fiscal year 2008, the program has awarded nearly \$1.5 million in matching grants for 40 projects statewide. In addition to the Watertown memorial, other projects include buying and installing a flagpole for the visitors center in Lawrence Heritage State Park in Lawrence, commissioning murals created by local students for the underpasses along the Nashua River Rail Trail in Groton, and hiring a preservation consultant to prepare the National Register nomination for Wachusett Mountain in Princeton and Westminster.

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*The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, oversees 450,000 acres of parks and forests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds, and dams, in addition to 278 bridges and miles of roadways. Led by Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr., the agency’s mission is to protect, promote, and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources. To learn more about DCR, our facilities, and our programs, please visit [www.mass.gov/dcr](http://www.mass.gov/dcr). Contact us at [mass.parks@state.ma.us](mailto:mass.parks@state.ma.us).*